

# CITY OF TUKWILA STRATEGIC PLAN

## Steering Committee Meeting #3 July 25, 2012 | Meeting Summary



### MEETING INFORMATION

#### Purpose

- Review community engagement efforts and check in on what we are hearing
- Being in-depth discussion of the Tukwila Community and prepare for a related Forum

#### Attendance

- |                             |                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| ■ David Cline, City Manager | ■ Sharon Mann               | ■ David Shumate  |
| ■ Katrina Dohn              | ■ Jenny McCoy               | ■ Gary Singh     |
| ■ Mary Fertakis             | ■ Bryan Nelson              | ■ Jerry Thornton |
| ■ Mike Hansen               | ■ Todd Pielzch              | ■ Sarah Vallieu  |
| ■ Joan Hernandez            | ■ Charanpreet Samra         | ■ Mike West      |
| ■ Kathy Hougardy            | ■ Verna Seal, Councilmember |                  |

### ITEM 1: WELCOME AND AGENDA OVERVIEW

- Joyce Trantina gave an update on project progress.
- Brian Murphy from BERK reviewed the agenda and objectives for the meeting.

### ITEM 2: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Alex Krieg from BERK reported on the current status of community engagement efforts and encouraged all Steering Committee members to get the word out about the Community Survey.
- Joyce Trantina mentioned the upcoming opportunity of Tukwila Night Out on August 7 as a way to further engage the community and spread the word on the Plan and process.

### ITEM 3: UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE TOPICAL DISCUSSIONS

- BERK summarized the proposed categories the Steering Committee will address as part of the strategic planning process. These categories include:
  - ▶ The Tukwila Community
  - ▶ The Built Environment
  - ▶ Public Safety: Police and Fire Provision

- ▶ Economic Vitality
- ▶ City Governance and Management
- The Steering Committee largely agreed that these are the most appropriate categories, while also noting some specific topics within them that will need to be discussed.
- There was also some discussion about the connections between and among some of these categories, and that certain elements (e.g. communication) span across them.

## ITEM 4: TOPICAL DISCUSSION #1: THE TUKWILA COMMUNITY

- BERK facilitated a brainstorming session around the Tukwila Community category, presenting challenge and vision statements, as well as potential strategies, around the following topics:
  - ▶ Community cohesion
  - ▶ Population trends
  - ▶ Demands for meeting basic needs
  - ▶ Communicating and engaging with diverse communities
  - ▶ City services for youth, teens, and seniors
  - ▶ The Tukwila School District
  - ▶ Health challenges in Tukwila
- Committee members used Post-It notes to annotate, edit, and add to initial challenge and vision statements, as well as potential strategies to address each of the above topics. This detailed input will be summarized in draft strategies brought back to the Committee for discussion at a future meeting.
- More significant decision points made by the Committee include:
  - ▶ It is more important to focus on poverty than racial or cultural characteristics. The latter are not determinants of people's needs. Cultural and language differences do mean that members of the community have different worldviews about some issues and that greater effort must be taken to communicate information effectively across the community.
  - ▶ There are many misperceptions about Tukwila's refugee populations. There are also misperceptions about which populations use basic services provided by the City and its partners. More community education and information sharing is needed.
  - ▶ The Plan should include focus on the following:
    - Making Tukwila the best place to live. This will contribute to overall community sustainability and stability. Related topics include addressing quality neighborhoods, crime reduction, and housing availability.
    - Meeting the basic needs of those in poverty.
    - Having the City take a more proactive approach to communication. Examples included using social media and engaging students who may be able to then involve their parents.

## ITEM 5: PREPARATIONS FOR FORUM ON TUKWILA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

- Brian Murphy reviewed the objectives for an upcoming Forum on Tukwila's diverse communities: 1) engaging and building connections with these communities, 2) gaining input on the Plan.
- Participants in the Forum will include representatives from City leadership, the Steering Committee, service providers, and interested individuals.
- Topics to be covered during the Forum include 1) the role and make-up of the City, and 2) personal and representative stories from participants. These personal narratives will likely address why they (and their peers and neighbors) are in Tukwila, why they remain here, and why they might leave.

## ITEM 6: ROUNDTABLE COMMENTS

The following closing comments were shared by Steering Committee members:

- Code enforcement, aesthetics, and sidewalks are my main takeaways from today's discussion.
- Lots of great ideas, and inspiring conversation. I think a lot of this ultimately has to do with pride of place and being a part of Tukwila. Code enforcement can help too.
- Our student committee member impact great wisdom today – there's lots of stuff to use from the youth in Tukwila.
- Health care has a huge impact on student achievement, and it's important to remember the connections between these challenge statements.
- These are big conversations; they feel a little rushed, but this was still a great conversation.
- I agree with the education piece and the connections, and that today was a good conversation.
- The key is balance. We need to get there, but it will be hard.
- Great stuff today; I'm looking to see how we go from here to actions – solutions will be harder.
- Thanks everyone for their participation – this was a good meeting.
- Thanks to our student: she brought a lot to the table. I also think we need to think about bringing different restaurants to the Community Forum to encourage turnout.
- I think the key is that we have the resources, but they are scattered – we need to build bridges.
- My concern is that some of the people we're talking about serving are not around the table. This is a challenge.
- From my property, I can see a huge diversity of people, but no one talks to each other. That's why I think we need to have an ice breaker meeting to get everyone to talk together.
- I'm excited about the energy and enthusiasm here today, and that fact that so many people showed up on such a nice day.
- I do have a concern about losing our population with resources, and that's why I think we should consider citizen/leadership trainings to create future leaders. So much can be done to correct misperceptions just by working together.
- We need to attract the middle class; we also need to work more with youth who can then spread the message and engage with their parents – if we can find the right people in these communities, we can make progress and improve.